

Letter to the Editor, Times Colonist

Re: Ontario introduces ban on pesticides – Wednesday May 7, 2008

SOUL, the Society for Organic Urban Land Care, would like to congratulate Ontario for using Earth Day to introduce legislation banning the use of pesticides for cosmetic purposes on the lawns and gardens of their citizenry.

On the same day Home Depot and Canadian Tire announced they would begin a countrywide phase out of harmful garden chemicals choosing to sell safer alternative products instead.

For the past twenty years people have become more and more aware of the effects of pesticides that are **designed** to kill using powerful carcinogens, neurotoxins, and endocrine disruptors and no longer want their children, their pets, or themselves exposed to these disease initiating poisons.

Members of SOUL and other organic growers, who have long been gardening without the use of these toxic substances, have proven beyond doubt that when we stop to study the needs of our land and our plants, taking care to include diversity and self-sufficiency in our landscapes, the results are beautiful, sustainable, economical and successful.

A recent study by the Canadian Cancer Society shows that greater than 77% of British Columbians support pesticide legislation and we applaud Victoria for being the first of the CRD municipalities to take action to implement a pesticide restriction bylaw. Municipal action is vitally important but we need Provincial action as well.

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President, SOUL www.organiclandcare.org

Chair, Pesticide Free CRD www.pesticidefreecrd.ca